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was completed in 1898. This triangulation was done to determine the size and figure of the earth and to connect the various detached surveys along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. The work is reported on in *Special Publication No. 7* of the Coast and Geodetic Survey. As this volume was published before the adoption of the United States standard datum, now called the North American datum, the positions given in it could not be held fixed. *Special Publication No. 24* gives the geographic positions on the North American datum of about 600 triangulation stations in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. These positions include all the old stations of the Eastern Oblique Arc in these three states, together with those of the new stations that were established in 1909, 1910 and 1911. A description is also given of each station which was marked substantially.

The triangulation is conveniently divided, according to its accuracy, into three sections. That section north of the Dauphin Island base is of primary character and of a very high degree of accuracy. The section from Dauphin Island base westward to the line Deer Island 1–Ship Island 1855, while of primary character, has not the degree of accuracy of the first section owing to the necessarily contracted width of the scheme. The third section from Deer Island 1–Ship Island 1855 to New Orleans is of secondary character. Excluding the third section the probable error of an observed direction is ± 0.42″ and the average closing error of a triangle is 0.95″.

The lengths in the triangulation are fixed by the Atlanta, Dauphin Island and Magnolia bases. The length of the Atlanta base, carried through the triangulation, agreed with the length of the Dauphin Island base by one part in 2,700,000. The Dauphin Island base was the first base line measured with the Bache-Würdeman base apparatus. On the Atlanta base the same apparatus was used.

Included in the publication is an explanation of the North American datum and a list of the publications of the Coast and Geodetic Survey which give geographic positions on that datum throughout the United States.

The elevations of about 100 of the triangulation stations were determined by trigonometric leveling and are given in meters above mean sea level. The highest station, and probably the highest point in Alabama, is Cheehahaw, whose elevation above mean sea level is 735.4 meters (2413 feet).

H. G. AVERS.

**The Anthracite Coal Combination in the United States,** with some account of the early development of the anthracite industry. By Eliot Jones. xiii and 261 pp. Maps, index. *Harvard Econ. Studies, Vol. 11.* Harvard University Press, Cambridge, 1914. $1.50. 9 x 6.

In the author's words "this book is a study of the combination movement in the anthracite coal industry. It presents an historical narrative of the beginnings and the growth of the industry; chronicles . . . the facts relating to the development of the combination and its control of the business; and describes the attempts of the government to dissolve the combination." The thesis shows thoroughness and mastery of the subject matter. It has been deservingly awarded the David A. Wells prize for the year 1913-14 at Harvard University.

The anthracite coal fields are located in detail and their resources carefully discussed. The early antagonism, as recently as 1812, toward the use of anthracite coal is especially striking in view of the tremendous consumption of the product today. The discussion of the development of canals in eastern Pennsylvania in connection with the exploitation of the coal deposits, and their subsequent absorption by the railroads, furnishes good material for the student who desires a well-worked-out but brief treatise on the subject. A map of all the coal fields of Pennsylvania, one of the anthracite fields, and graphs covering various phases of coal production and prices illuminate the text. A few statistical tables from which the graphs were constructed, copies of letters written by railroad officials in connection with investigations by the Interstate Commerce Commission, and an exhaustive bibliography of 207 titles are appended. The index is very complete. EUGENE VAN CLEEF.